

NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

SEOUL, MARCH 26-27, 2012

Belgian Speech

1/ Let me first thank President Lee Myung-Bak for his excellent hosting and chairing of this Summit. I would also like to thank President Obama to have launched this process.

2/ Belgium takes the potential threat of terrorism very seriously since it constitutes one of the greatest challenges to international peace and security.

Belgium is a small country but has a long history and extensive experience in nuclear energy. Belgium is also the host to the European institutions, NATO, and many international organizations. In this double context, nuclear security is for Belgium a priority and an **essential element of a responsible nuclear policy**. Belgium has developed, from the beginning, the purpose of **a culture of constant vigilance**.

The prime responsibility for security belongs to the national states. Nevertheless, this does not exclude, in our view, the development of international rules and the application of highest standards, under the authority of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The threat we face is indeed a common threat, the answer should thus be a common one as well. Belgium stresses the need, therefore, to develop high security norms everywhere in the world with a real integrated approach combining security and safety and also, as France and Germany have already stated, **to better protect all radioactive substances** by taking into account their relative potential for harm and their attractiveness for criminals or terrorists.

3/ Belgium spared no efforts to improve our national security:

- We adopted in 2011 a strengthened and modernized legal and regulatory framework for the physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear transport ;
- Belgium has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2009;
- Belgium enacted an approval law in 2008 for the ratification of the Amendment to the CPPNM (Convention of physical protection of nuclear material). We stand ready to deposit the ratification instruments in accordance with the requirements of the Euratom Treaty. Pending this deposit, Belgium already today fully implements this Convention as amended;

- Regarding in particular **the minimization of the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and the conversion** of HEU fuel reactors to LEU fuel reactors, Belgium has taken several initiatives and made several arrangements including:
 - an exchange of diplomatic notes between Belgium and the United States on the minimization of HEU and on Molybdenum-99 ;
 - a Joint Statement by the Republic of Korea, the United States, France and Belgium on a Quadrilateral cooperation on high density low-enriched uranium fuel production;
 - a Joint Statement by the United States, France, the Netherlands and Belgium, which is an important worldwide producer of radioisotopes on the minimization of HEU and the reliable supply of medical radioisotopes;
 - Belgium also went beyond the safety-track of the European stress tests by including security-aspects.
 - We are also working actively with the United States on the repatriation of HEU and separated plutonium and will report on the progress achieved in 2014.

These concrete achievements illustrate the voluntarism which Belgium intends to demonstrate in the implementation of commitments made at the Washington Summit and renewed here in Seoul.

Belgium is also determined to further strengthen and **optimize its response capabilities to reinforce security**, as far as training, screening, protection of facilities, creation of centers of excellence are concerned.

4/ Belgium supports **the action of the IAEA** regarding nuclear security. The assistance that the Agency provides to the States in the frame of the establishment of their national nuclear security regime is of key relevance. Belgium is convinced that IPASS-missions should become the norm for each state.

Belgium encourages in particular the IAEA to organize a meeting of experts mandated to develop recommendations **on the implications of nuclear safety on nuclear security and on their interface**.

To conclude, I would like to say that we must do more and I would like to encourage further progress in the next two years and ask for more intensive, concrete national efforts and international cooperation, more global security culture, more information security as proposed by the UK, more research, more protection for transport, more transparency, more training and also more cooperation with Interpol to counter the threat that concerns all of us. It's our most important responsibility towards the citizen.
